



## Emergency Communication Networks

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[www.ecn.state.mn.us](http://www.ecn.state.mn.us)

October 1, 2019

Michael J. Wilhelm  
Chief, Policy and Licensing Division  
Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

State of Minnesota Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) test, waiver request -  
PS Docket No. 15-91

Dear Chief Wilhelm:

The State of Minnesota, Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Communication Networks (DPS-ECN), which functions as the statewide coordinating office for the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) functions in Minnesota, would like to request an FCC Rule Waiver on behalf of participating Commercial Mobile Service (CMS)<sup>1</sup> Providers to conduct a live Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) test in Winona County (027169).

The live test end to end test, pending your approval would be sent by Winona County Emergency Management with their Notification System (Rave) using the Civil Danger Warning (CDW) code. The test would occur on October 12, 2019, between 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM (CST) and will involve the use of a combined WEA and an EAS Message sent via the

<sup>1</sup> A Participating CMS Provider is an FCC licensee providing commercial mobile service as defined in section 332(d)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934 that has voluntarily elected to transmit WEA Alert Messages under part 10 of the FCC's rules. See 47 CFR §10.10 (d), (f).

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Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), no back-up date is requested.

The WEA message is planned to broadcast only to cell phones in the city of Dresbach, Minnesota (55947).

**The test message will read:**

**WEA:** *"This is a test of the Winona County Wireless Emergency Alert System. No action is required."*

This test is not intended to be a substitute for other scheduled tests of Wireless Emergency Alerts. This will be the first live test on a state border county of the WEA system for the State of Minnesota and will be used to build on our education of how the system should work and form a template and best practice for future testing.

Winona County Emergency Management and Public Safety Officials are tasked with public information and warning, which includes alerts and notifications to their residents during both local and federal emergencies and incidents that impact life, safety, and property. The purpose of this test is to ensure that the WEA system will work during such emergencies, for portions of the State of Minnesota and Wisconsin.

In addition, DPS-ECN is currently working on a multi-media public announcement advertisement and marketing plan with Winona County Emergency Management for the proposed upcoming WEA test to insure public understanding of the function and utility of WEA, insuring that the October 12 WEA message is, in fact, a test. This plan will be shared with the Public Information Officers in all affected jurisdictions for distribution to all surrounding county media outlets, including newspapers, radio, television, cable outlets. It will be posted on web sites and social media as well.

DPS-ECN will also coordinate information about the test with the participating CMS providers that operate within the area of Winona County. All emergency authorities that operate within and neighbor Winona County, including first responder organizations such as Police, Fire/EMS agencies and 911 public safety answering points (PSAPs), will be informed to ensure that they are aware of the test and can confirm to the public that the WEA message is a test.

DPS-ECN and local Emergency Managers plan to record test results, and provide a detailed account of any problems that occur in the distribution of the WEA test to your office.

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DPS-ECN anticipates that due to the nature of the proposed test, members of the public may receive a test message outside Stevens County, and accordingly will address this issue in its outreach materials.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact John Dooley, IPAWS Program Manager, Division of Emergency Communication Networks at [john.dooley@state.mn.us](mailto:john.dooley@state.mn.us) or ay 651-201-7099.

I appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dana Wahlberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dana" being more prominent.

Dana Wahlberg

Director  
State of Minnesota  
Department of Public Safety  
Emergency Communication Networks

cc: Ben Klinger, Emergency Manager, Winona County, Minnesota